

FACT SHEET

Smoke Alarm Installation and Maintenance

Only a working smoke alarm can save lives.

How do I install my smoke alarm?

If you can handle a screwdriver, you can install a battery operated smoke alarm. They are simply fastened to the ceiling with two small screws. Mains powered smoke alarms must be installed by a licensed electrician. For effective operation smoke alarms should be located away from corners.

When installing your smoke alarm:

- Do not paint your smoke alarm.
- Do not place the alarm in turbulent air from fans, doors, windows, air conditioners etc. Rapid air movement may prevent smoke from reaching the alarm.
- Do not place the alarm in dead air spaces such as the peak of an A-frame ceiling. 'Dead air' at the top may prevent smoke from reaching the alarm in time to provide early warning. In rooms with simple sloped, peaked or gabled ceilings, install smoke alarms on the ceiling 90cm (3 feet) from the highest point of the ceiling. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Note: For complex ceiling structures, consult a fire safety expert for the number of alarms required and the best locations.

What maintenance is required?

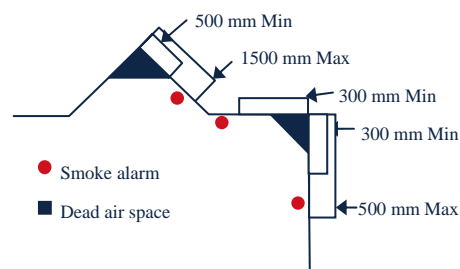
Monthly: Smoke alarms require regular testing. They are equipped with a test button that should be depressed (by the use of a broom handle or similar) until the alarm sounds.

Six monthly: Every six months the alarm should be checked for excessive dust.

Yearly: Every year you should clean your smoke alarm with your vacuum cleaner to remove any dust particles that may affect the smoke alarm's performance. In most cases the battery should be replaced.

Ten yearly: Every 10 years, all smoke alarms should be replaced. The service date (the date when the alarm will no longer work) should be indicated clearly on the base of each smoke alarm.

More information over page...../



Ensure you do not place an alarm in a dead air space.



Smoke alarms should be tested regularly.



Smoke alarms should be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner to remove any excessive dust.

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Replace your smoke alarm battery annually.



Ionisation smoke alarms can be disposed of in a quantity not exceeding 10 units.

When do I replace the battery?

When batteries are low the smoke alarm will sound a short 'Beep' at regular intervals. This is your reminder to replace the batteries. Except for smoke alarms fitted with rechargeable or long life lithium batteries, we suggest you replace your batteries annually, for example when you change your clock to daylight saving time, or on some notable anniversary.

Disposal of your old smoke alarm

Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years and therefore consideration needs to be given to disposal of your old unit. Old photoelectric smoke alarms may be disposed of with household waste in any quantity.

Local legislation may allow your old ionisation smoke alarms to be disposed of with household waste in a quantity not exceeding 10 units. Any more than 10 units would require being treated as radioactive waste and disposed of in accordance with local legislation.

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Also see:

Purchasing a Smoke Alarm

Smoke Alarm - Ionisation or Photoelectric?
